

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER



RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

K5OE Handi-Tenna

The 2010 RARSfest hands-on project table featured a handheld antenna for reception of UHF downlink amateur radio satellite signals, as well as the popular J-pole project we had in previous years. For those who missed the opportunity to build this antenna at RARSfest, Justin Pinnix has provided the following information:

- Original K5OE plans for the [Handi-Tenna 70 cm portable antenna](#).
- RARS Handi-Tenna [step-by-step instructions](#) used at RARSfest 2010.
- A link to the [J-pole antenna instructions](#) on which the RARSfest kits were based.

Next RARS Meeting: August 3

7:30 PM: "Switching Power Supplies"
by James Staley KE6FNW.

RARS OFFICERS:

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

August Birthdays

Clement	KD4BMA	8/8
Mel	K4FEP	8/8
Ralph	KJ4TTI	8/9
Andy	NI4S	8/10
Joe	KJ4LZM	8/11
Nola	KD4OLZ	8/12
Paul	AE4MN	8/15
Bernard	W4BRB	8/17
Chuck	W3WZN	8/19
Al	KE4IHX	8/20
Red	AC4QX	8/21
Mirl	W4WMA	8/22
Barry	KD4WTI	8/22
Steve	KJ4BX	8/23
Jack	KI4YXK	8/24
Hal	K4NKR	8/24
Don	N8DDK	8/27
Jack	W5WSF	8/28
Edward	N4SSU	8/29
Charlie	W4VFJ	8/30
Dan	KD4AGQ	8/31

Upcoming Hamfests

8/1	60th Annual Berryville Hamfest Berryville, VA http://www.svarc.us/hamfest/
8/7	CFARS Swapfest Fayetteville, NC http://k4hm.net/
8/21	ARRL Alabama Section Convention
8/22	Huntsville, AL http://www.hamfest.org/
8/21	ARRL West Virginia State Convention Weston, WV http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/
8/28	Cedars of Lebanon Hamfest Gladeville, TN http://www.shortmountain.org/

New RARS Members

Will Dunlop	No License
Fred Ennis	KJ4RGB
Jim Maas	N0YOA
Charles Strickland	WA4OSS

June 2010

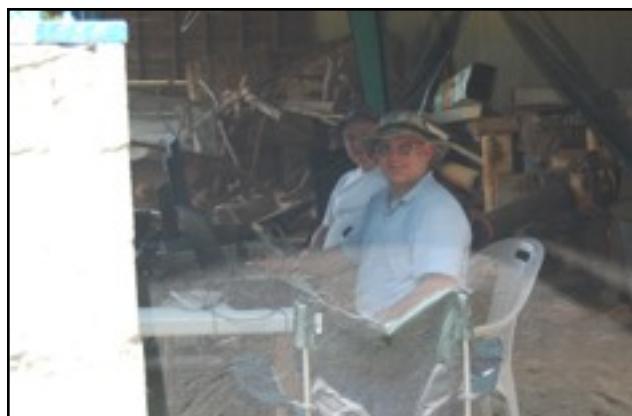
RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 490
Traffic: 38/25
Minutes: 520
Sessions: 30

Special Interest Nets:
Checkins: 200
Minutes: 900
Sessions: 21

RARS Field Day 2010

Photos by Rich Mitchell N4ENL



Read more about Field Day in an article by the [News & Observer!](#)

June 15, 2010 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

**Minutes by Charlie Swindell WB4DCM,
RARS Secretary**

Present: Ken KI4OTO, Justin AJ4MJ, Hank K4HM, Selene KG4RMT, Karl W4CHX, Don WA4AVU, Chuck K4HF, Greg KE4PAX, Gary KN4AQ, Steve KJ4BX, Charles WB4DCM.

Visitors: Jack N6UYB, Marty W4MY, David KF4VXJ.

Apologies: John AI4RT, Virginia NC4VA, Courtney KI4HOS

1. Call to order (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.
2. Approval of minutes (Karl W4CHX and Charles WB4DCM): The minutes of the May 18, 2010 meeting of the RARS Board were approved as written.
3. Vice President's report (Justin AJ4MJ): Tom Lewis N4TL, will present the July program on "Old Radio Repair". Programs for the remainder of the year have been scheduled. We have been receiving adequate donations to cover the cost of snacks.
4. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): Donations have been submitted to Amateur Radio Newsline and TRRS. Money has been set aside for ARRL classroom. Chuck K4HF suggested we contribute to the ARRL Diamond Fund. We have a brick and are expected to make donations each year. A motion was made, seconded and approved to donate \$250 to the ARRL Diamond Fund. The financial review is still pending.
5. Secretary's report (Charles WB4DCM): Charlie commented that it was nice to have Chuck K4HF back with us.
6. Committee reports:
 - a. Public Service Director (John AI4RT): Based on his email communication, it was reported that the upcoming events are: the MS Ice Cream Run (Saturday, 6/19); the Chatham Co. Habitat for Humanity Ride (Saturday, 6/26); and, the Firecracker 50/100K (Sunday, 7/4).
 - b. Public Information Officer (Gary KN4AQ): Commented that he is working on publicity for Field Day. If we could coordinate publicly elected officials with the news media, we might have better luck.

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- c. Education Director (Virginia NC4VA): Based on her email communication, it is possible that she may not attend the Board meeting; Virginia NC4VA did not have any business to bring to the Board at this time.
- d. Field Day Chair (Mike WA4BPJ): No report.
- e. FM Repeater Chair (Gary KN4AQ): The committee met and 9 members were present. They will establish some additional control operators for the 146.64 repeater. That will not impact the operation of the repeater. They are planning to reinstall the .525 repeater. The committee would like to extend coverage of the 146.64 repeater to the RTP area by moving the 145.13 repeater and linking them together. That project is expected to take 2-3 weeks. Ken KI4OTO commented that he was hearing interference on 146.64 from another repeater. After some discussion, it was concluded that the only option was to make the 146.64 repeater PL activated and that was not desired at this point.
- f. RARSFest Chair (John AI4RT): Based on his email communication, there is nothing to report at this time.
- g. Exciter Chair (Courtney KI4HOS): Based on an email communication from Virginia NC4VA, Courtney KI4HOS asks individuals to continue sending articles and photos for the Exciter.
- h. Hospitality Chair (Mary Jo K4MJL): No report.
- i. Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA): No report.
- j. ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF): Had no specific report but stated that ARRL is aware of the complaints about its new web page and is taking action to correct it.
- k. At-Large Director (Don WA4AVU): No comment.
- l. At-Large Director (Ken KI4OTO): No comment.
- m. At-Large Director (Steve KJ4BX): No comment. However, President Karl thanked Steve for coordinating use of the church.
- n. W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (Jeff AC4ZO): No report.

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- o. RARS VE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR and Liz KO4CK): No report. However, it was indicated that they would be at the Cary Swap Fest in July.
- p. RARS Webmaster (Hank K4HM): Hank commented that the ARRL web page was experiencing difficulties as previously stated. The links do not always work. Next he asked if the Board was seriously looking at e-voting. Chuck K4HF stated that proxy voting had been repealed. The issue was dropped.

7. Old Business:

- a. Karl W4CHX inquired if Don WA4AVU was receiving Board emails. He is.
- b. The financial review is still pending.
- c. David KF4VXJ and Ken KI4OTO indicated that donations of food for Field Day have been received. They will send thank you letters to the contributors. In addition, a thank you will be placed in the EXCITER.
- d. The donation to the Vet School, for use of their facility during our RARSFest, is being forwarded to the N. C. Veterinary Medical Foundation.

8. New Business:

- a. President Karl occasional receives emails and sought advice from the Board about the manner in which they should be handled.
- b. Chuck K4HF stated that some Board members were not on the reflector. He suggested that Board members should insure that they are receiving emails.
- c. None of the visitors had a comment, but President Karl thanked them for attending.

9. Board Member's Comments:

- a. Hank K4HM advised that he receives emails requesting that third parties be permitted to have links on our web page.
- b. Greg KE4PAX made a quick comment about the donations that RARS has received over the past 10 years.

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- c. Jack N6UYB asked what is the “Bitner Fund”? Hank K4HM gave a quick review of the fund. There was discussion about contributing to the fund.
- d. Ken KI4OTO advised that Bill N2COP and the Red Cross have requested written invitations to attend field day. He will send them a letter.

10. Adjournment (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

July 6, 2010 RARS General Meeting Minutes

**Minutes by Charlie Swindell WB4DCM,
RARS Secretary**

- 1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by Karl W4CHX. There were 67 members and guests present.
- 2. Approval of minutes: The minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting on June 1, 2010 were approved as written.
- 3. Vice President’s report (Justin AJ4MJ): No report.
- 4. Treasurer’s report (Greg KE4PAX): No report. However, President Karl did comment that we approved a new budget at the last meeting. So far in this fiscal year we have 132 members. For the fiscal year just ending, we had 258 members.
- 5. Announcements (Karl W4CHX):
 - a. Field Day 2010: Thanks to everyone for their efforts on making Field Day 2010 a success! Mike Murphy WA4BPJ, Field Day chair made comments later in the meeting.
 - b. RARS Dinner: second Tuesday, (7/13), 6:30 PM, Golden Corral, 2909 Millbrook Road (at the corner of Capital Blvd and Millbrook Road), monitor the 146.64 repeater on Tuesday (7/13) for any update information.
 - c. Poll for RARS dinner: since the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue/Hwy 70 is going to be closed temporarily, input is needed on places to try for the next several months; the poll for this purpose is on the home page of the RARS website; key points to consider in recommendation: up to 25 diners may be

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present, the cost of the meal should be inexpensive, buffet-style food selection is preferred, and availability of a private room is preferred; this could lead to a permanent change in location for future RARS dinners. Presently, very few votes have been received.

- d. RARS Board meeting: third Tuesday (7/20), 7:00 PM, Triangle Radio Reading Service, 211 E. Six Forks Road, Suite 103; any RARS member is welcome to attend. For more information, contact any RARS officer.
- e. After meeting gathering: Applebee's, Six Forks and Wake Forest Roads (by the Costco)
- f. Upcoming hamfests in NC: Firecracker Hamfest, Salisbury, NC (7/10); Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest, Cary, NC (7/17); 34th Annual Western Carolina Hamfest, Waynesville, NC (7/24); Cape Fear ARS SwapFest, Fayetteville, NC (8/7); see the RARS Exciter for information on other hamfests.
- g. Guests: Jim Maas, N0YAO Raleigh, NC; David Guthrie KI4MMU Raleigh, NC; Tom Lewis N4TL Raleigh, NC (and also our guest speaker); Bill Schmidt N0FSD Raleigh, NC; and Marty Young W4MY's Mom.

6. Reports from RARS Board members and others:

- a. John AI4RT Public Service Chair commented that we have multiple events coming up. Please go to the RARS web page, pick Public Service and then Events.
- b. Mike WA4BPJ Field Day Chair asked that all those that went to the Field Day site to raise their hands. They were thanked for their participation. Again, we had Field Day at the Carroll's property. We operated 8a with a total of 12,658 points which gives us a shot at first place.

7. Any other business: There was no other business.

8. Drawing: The winner was Charlie WB4DCM.

9. Program: Tom Lewis, N4TL presented our program tonight. The title of his presentation was, "Antique Radio Repair".

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM by Karl W4CHX

Local Amateur Radio Nets

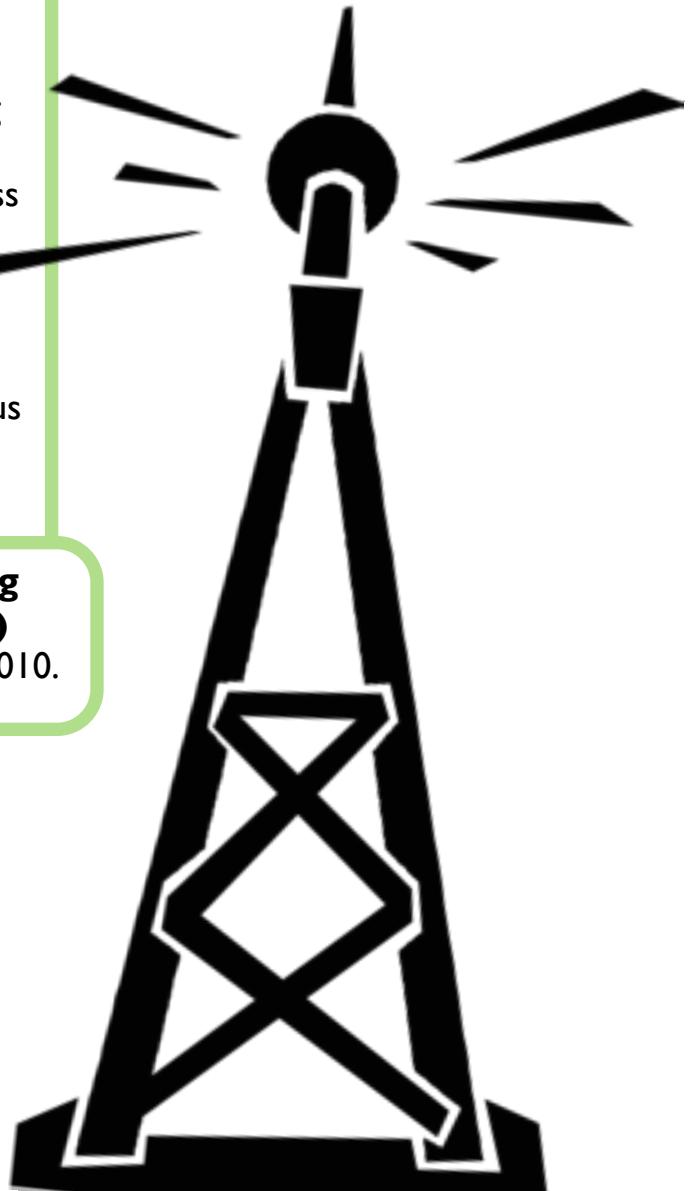
The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 at 8:30 PM.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

FYI: The **Tarheel Shortwave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) Net** has been discontinued as of January 2010.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**.

You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

August 24: "Hurricane Season Update, etc." with Darin Figurskey KC2IPY, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Raleigh NWS.

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

**Looking for the latest in
public service opportunities?
Visit www.rars.org to find
out about upcoming events
and sign up.**

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